

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01501 150235Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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R 140909Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1208
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 1501

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM SOPN HU UR US
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS ANALYSIS OF BREZHNEV SPEECH AND PRESIDENT
CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIA-
TION WEAPON

1. SUMMARY: EXTENSIVE HUNGARIAN PRESS COVERAGE WAS GIVEN
APR 8 TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH ON DISARMAMENT AT VLADIVOSTOK
FOLLOWED BY EDITORIAL ANALYSIS APR 9 OF SAME SPEECH WITH
ADDITION OF COMMENTARY IN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S DECISION
TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON. WHILE
SUPPORTING BREZHNEV DOWN THE LINE ON VIRTUALLY ALL POINTS,
EDITORIALS APR 9 RECOGNIZED THAT PRESIDENT'S DECISION WITH
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RESPECT TO NEUTRON BOMB WAS A POSITIVE STEP. END SUMMARY.

2. IT IS INTERESTING TO COMPARE COMMENTARY OF MAGYAR NEMZET
MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT AS PUBLISHED IN PAPER APR 8 WITH
EDITORIAL BY PAPER'S EDITOR APR 9. CORRESPONDENT,
OBVIOUSLY WRITING BEFORE NEWS OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION
CONCERNING ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON, ACCUSED U.S. OF

SEEKING ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES AND ADDED: "WE ARE PROBABLY NOT WRONG TO REGARD THIS STATEMENT (BY BREZHNEV) AS A KIND OF PRELIMINARY WARNING PRECEDING THE MOSCOW VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE." FOLLOWING DAY TIBOR PETHO, MAGYAR NEMZET'S EDITOR, WROTE THAT THE STAND OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WAS APPRECIATED BECAUSE IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SECRETARY VANCE. HE ALSO WROTE THAT "IMPORTANT PROSPECTS" WILL OPEN UP FOR ADVANCING DETENTE IF THE SPIRIT OF REALISM GETS STRONGER IN WEST IN COMING WEEKS.

3. PETHO AND JANOS HAJDU, WRITING IN THE AUTHORITATIVE PARTY PAPER NEPSZABADSAG, WHILE GIVING CARTER RECOGNITION FOR HIS NEWLY ANNOUNCED DECISION, OTHERWISE SUPPORTED BREZHNEV DOWN THE LINE ECHOING HIS VLADIVOSTOK SPEECH. HAJDU FOR EXAMPLE STRESSED: (A) SALT II AGREEMENT IS VIRTUALLY READY TO BE SIGNED BUT WASHINGTON PERSISTS IN TRYING TO LINK IT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND OTHER MATTERS; (B) U.S. WISHES TO OBTAIN ONE-SIDED TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES WHILE DEPRIVING SOVIET UNION OF ARSENAL OF NEW WEAPONS; AND (C) U.S. FEARS OF MILITARY BUILDUP BY SOVIETS ARE GROUNDLESS.

4. ON QUESTION OF NEUTRON BOMB HAJDU IS CAREFUL,
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GIVING PRESIDENT CARTER CREDIT BUT ONLY LEFT-HANDEDLY, HE ATTRIBUTED PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SOCIALIST RESOLUTIONESS. HE CALLED ATTENTION ALSO TO FACT THAT U.S. WILL CONTINUE PREPARATIONS TO PRODUCE BOMB AND WILL ALSO NOT RENOUNCE WEAPONS ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY BUT DEMANDS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES THAT THEY UNDERTAKE UNRELATED (DISARMEMENT) MEASURES. AT SAME TIME, HAJDU RECOGNIZES U.S. "HAWKS" WILL BE DISAPPOINTED, SINCE EVEN POSTPONMENT OF PRODUCTION MEANS A PARTIAL DEFEAT FOR THEM.
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Message Attributes

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